

ERRATA SHEET

Wildland Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment **(released for public comment on Nov. 17, 2004)**

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

This Errata has been prepared to clarify the intent and detail of analysis concerning specific elements of the proposed fire management actions, as discussed in the subject Environmental Assessment (EA).

Overall five responses concerning the EA were received during the public review comment period for the Wildland Fire Management Plan EA (Chief, Hawaii County Fire Department; Senator Akaka; and three residents of nearby communities). No one opposed the proposed actions nor raised substantive issues. A letter from an interested individual indicated that the "Preferred Alternative" should include prescriptions for research burns.

With respect to the use of prescribed fire, the language in the EA concerning the preferred alternative was very general; this was intended so as to be inclusive of varied activities (all expected to have similar effects), as opposed to restrictive. For the purposes of the environmental impact analysis, a range of prescribed activities that could occur was assumed (including but not limited to research, experiments, studies and similar scientific activities). In preparing the EA, the language emphasizing "prescribed" was intended to reflect that future fire use would be planned in advance so as to focus on a known purpose (and which would be documented prior to implementation, including additional compliance as appropriate).

Clarifications to the following sections of the EA are hereby incorporated by reference, as explained below:

"Prescribed fire will be used to help restore native vegetation in the Coastal Lowland and Mid-Elevation Seasonal Fire Management Units" (Page 21, Alternative 2 – Proposed Action, paragraph 1.)

The major differences between the alternatives are . . . Alternative 2 allows for an expanded use of prescribed fire as a management tool rather than just experimentally in the coastal lowlands and the mid-elevation seasonal woodlands." (Page 22, Actions Common to Both Alternatives, paragraph 2.)

Research burns may be needed to understand the restoration process and/or the effectiveness of prescribed fire as a management tool. Prescribed fire for the purposes of understanding the restoration process or for providing restoration tools (research burns) was therefore intended to be encompassed in the activities analyzed under the preferred alternative. Prescribed fire will be used as a management tool for restoration in the coastal lowlands and the mid-elevation seasonal woodlands. Research burns for these purposes may be prescribed within these fire management units.

These sheets should be attached to copies of the EA so as to comprise a full and complete record of the conservation planning and environmental impact analysis completed for the FMP.